



*City of Arts & Innovation*

## News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **RIVERSIDE OPENS 8<sup>TH</sup> LIBRARY, 9<sup>TH</sup> UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

**Riverside, California** - Saturday, May 14 was an exciting day for residents of the Magnolia Center neighborhood in Riverside as they welcomed the new Marcy Library. Over 1400 people toured the library, a bright and cheerful space that more than doubled the library area compared to the old Marcy branch library.

The library features 35 public access computers, a dedicated children's area and a quiet study room. This green project converted an office building into the library, with offices on the second floor for the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Headquarters. The project also features a photovoltaic system on the roof in order to increase the level of renewable resources in the City's power portfolio.

This is the second library to open in the last twelve months, with Arlanza residents celebrating the opening of the new Arlanza library last November. Both the new Marcy Library and the Arlanza Library were funded with redevelopment funds, reinvesting local property taxes for the benefit of residents. Construction of both projects also provided dozens of construction jobs, welcome news for local residents.

The City of Riverside operates eight branch libraries to serve a population of 306,779. An additional library is currently under construction on the Hillcrest High School campus and will operate as a joint use library shared by students and the community. The City has invested over \$30 million in the library system since 2007 under the Riverside Renaissance, adding two libraries to the system and providing substantial improvements to three of the branch libraries, in addition to the new home for Marcy Library.

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In addition to adding branch libraries, library services are at an all-time high. The Summer Reading program launches on June 4 and includes exciting prizes for every five books read, such as free admission to Castle Park, a free beverage at all Riverside Starbucks locations, a free swim at any of Riverside's public swimming pools, and a free skate at Roller City 2000. The libraries have also partnered with Smooth Transitions to provide basic skills and parenting classes, and with Smart Riverside to offer digital inclusion computer classes. For more information about Riverside's libraries, visit [www.riversideca.gov/library](http://www.riversideca.gov/library).

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